

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

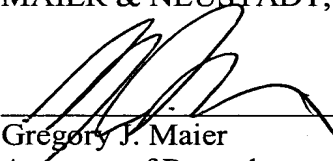
This amendment amends this application to include a cross-reference to the priority International Application No. PCT/JP03/04630, filed on April 11, 2003 which was not published under PCT Article 21(2) in English. This application is based upon and claims the benefit of priority from the prior Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2002-109682, filed April 11, 2002, 2002-252296, filed August 30, 2002, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Claims 1-13 are presently active in the application.

Examination on the merits of Claims 1-13 are believed to be in order and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220

(OSMMN 08/03)

GJM:fb1

I:\USER\FBLAZ\IPCT BY-PASS\252144.PREL.AM.DOC